

## The New Idaho

by Alan Porter, State Census Data Center Manager

The first local area Census 2000 data for Idaho represents more than just a multitude of numbers.

Idaho's increase of over 287,000 people during the last decade represents the largest population increase in our history and depicts the greatest demographic change since statehood.

Our 28.5 percent growth rate was the fifth highest in the nation after Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and Utah.

Demographically, we became more diverse. Our Hispanic population almost doubled during the last decade, while Idaho's native Indian population increased by almost one third. All the minority races in Idaho experienced population increases above the statewide average, changing the Gem State's demographic portrait and reflecting an overall trend in the U.S.

The state's population split between urban and rural areas shifted slightly with a continued decline in residents living in rural areas. We estimate urban areas now house about 62 percent of Idaho's population.

Births resulted in one-third of our population increase, while two-thirds of the state's growth was from net in-migration, the difference between people moving in and those moving out. Since 1910, Idaho has experienced net in-migration in one other decade - the 1970s.

Idaho's robust economy during the 1990's attracted new residents in search of a better lifestyle and allowed many of our young people to remain in their native state. Seventy percent of Idaho's net in-migration was concentrated in its three most populated areas - Ada, Canyon and Kootenai counties. Examining the number of births, deaths and the total migration both into and out of Idaho, it is quite possible that almost half of our population base since 1990 is made up of people who are new to the state.

That level of change seems stunning, but it emphasizes the importance of both private and public sector decision makers to carefully examine Census 2000 data as we plan for an array of issues like education, public safety, transportation, health care, con-

sumer markets, site location, business plans and rural revitalization.

In Idaho, every county and community will receive a statistical portrait of its people and how they live. Population size, distribution, ethnic make-up and rate of change will influence both our urban and rural communities in significant and far-reaching ways.

The Census 2000 numbers will be used annually to allocate federal funds. More than \$89 million in state revenue sharing and transportation dollars will go to cities and counties for public facilities, highways, public safety and other local government needs.

Idaho's city and county population information will also be the official data used by a six-member, bipartisan citizen's commission to redistrict the Legislature and the state's two congressional districts.

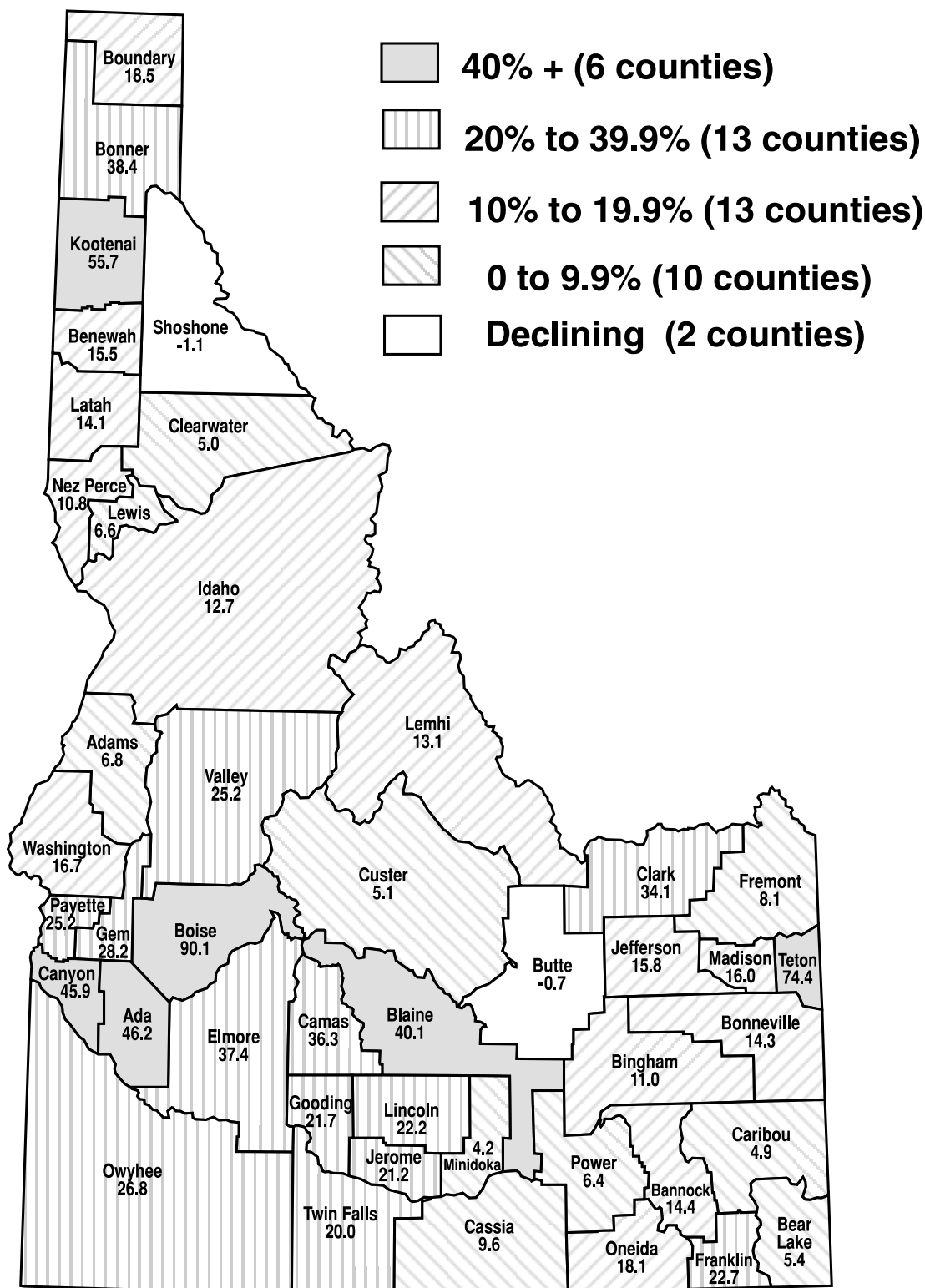
But government isn't the only entity that will benefit from Idaho's Census 2000 data. People from many walks of life will access the information to advocate for causes, research markets, target advertising, provide recreational opportunities, manage health care services and locate pools of skilled workers.

As economic and social characteristics become available next year for neighborhoods, Idaho businesses will use census numbers to reduce their financial risk and improve their market analysis. This new data will show - on a local, regional or national basis - how many men, women and children live in a specific area based on age and ethnic origin, sex and race, income and education and homeowners versus renters.

Census 2000 data is a valuable resource to anyone interested in how Idaho communities are changing. More avenues - from the Internet, to the Idaho Data Center to local libraries - are now available to access summarized census findings. These findings run the gamut of simple to complex. Our goal is to provide assistance to persons and organizations wanting to use this important and valuable information.

# Percent Change in Population, 1990-2000, April 1, 2000

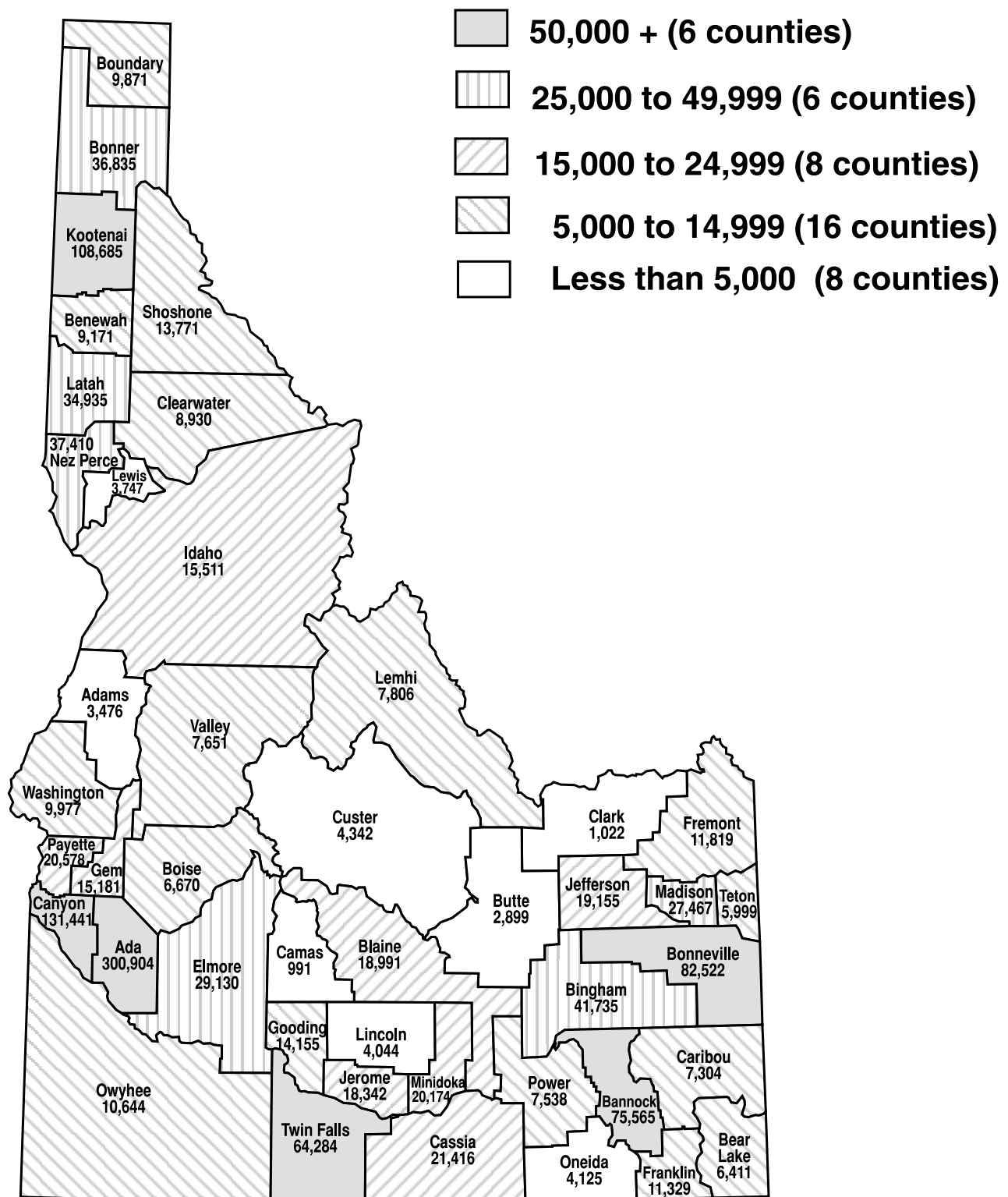
Source: US Bureau of the Census, March 2001



Prepared by the Idaho Department of Commerce

# Population Counts, Census 2000, April 1, 2000

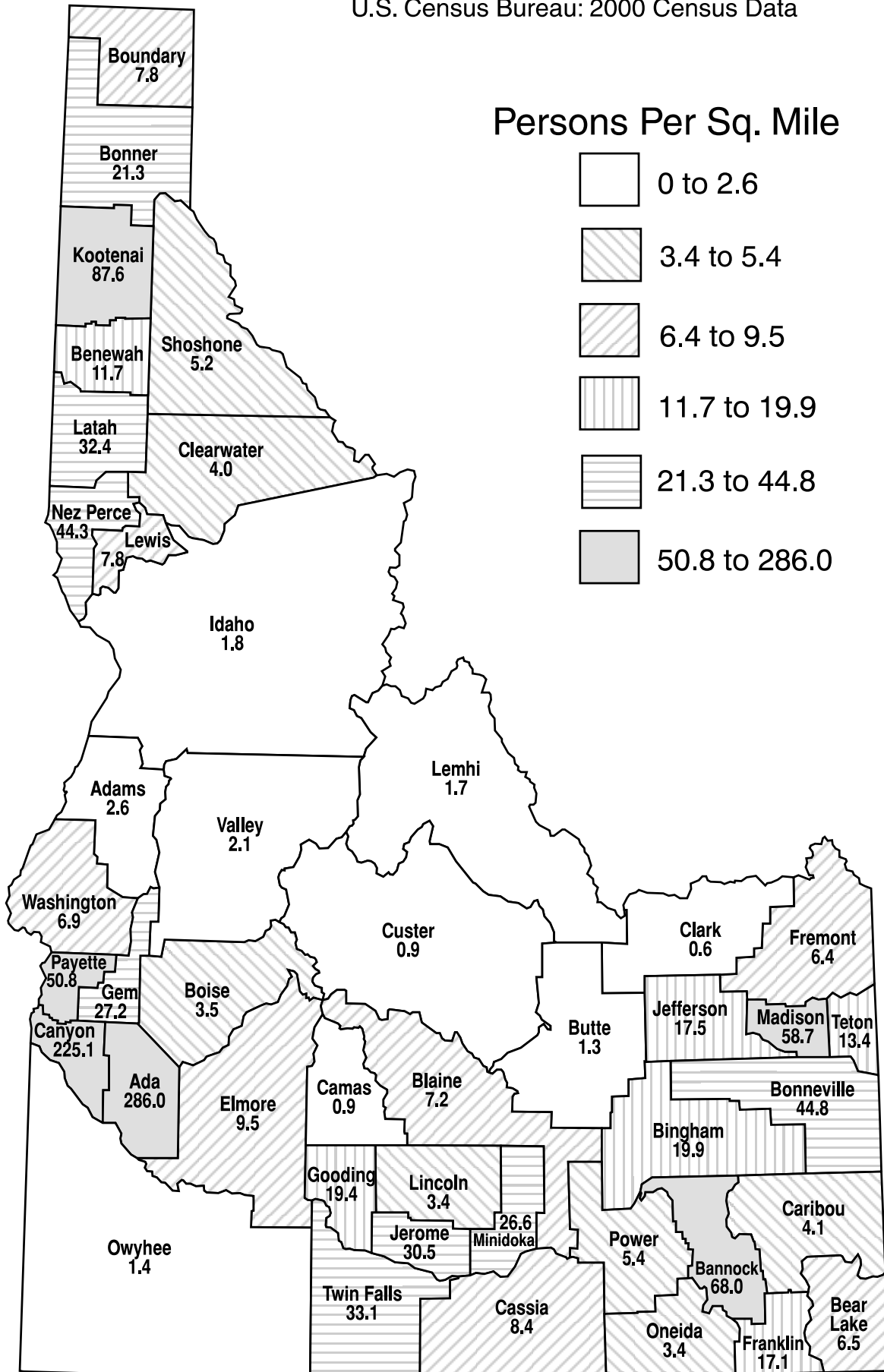
Source: US Bureau of the Census, March 2001



Prepared by the Idaho Department of Commerce

# Idaho Population Density, 2000

U.S. Census Bureau: 2000 Census Data



## Farm Employment Outlook

by Janell Hyer, Labor Market Analyst Supervisor

At 29,320, farm employment in Idaho increased 10.1 percent from February to March. The gain occurred in Unpaid Family Workers and Hired Workers, which increased 16.2 percent and 15.2 percent, respectively. Agricultural employment normally increases in March following the winter downturn, which occurs in November as the harvest ends. Agriculture activities in March include soil preparation and early planting. These are not labor-intensive activities.

The question on everyone's mind is how will a shortage of water and power impact agriculture employment. There is a lot of speculation based on limited information. This is what we know at this point in time. The lack of mountain snow pack and resulting low stream flow runoff will affect everyone in the state from the lack of water for irrigation to higher electricity bills. In certain areas of the state, many farmers are preparing for water shortages this year by planting fewer crops or those that

use less water or need less water in late summer. It is projected that shortages will occur in the following reservoirs: Magic, Mackay, Oakley, and Salmon Falls. The Boise Reservoir System and the seven of the eight major reservoirs on the upper Snake system will be at minimum levels by late August. The two exceptions are Anderson Ranch Reservoir and Jackson Lake.

Because of the predicted water shortage, Idaho Power offered an irrigation buy back program to farmers in southern Idaho. The program allowed irrigation customers to commit to an energy reduction of at least 100,000 kilowatt hours during the 2001 growing season. The process provided for customers to turn in a bid to Idaho Power that specified a specific amount of energy to be reduced and a price per kilowatt-hour that they would be willing to accept as compensation. Idaho Power felt that the benefit of reducing purchases of wholesale electricity by paying customers to reduce energy

**FYI Table 1: Idaho Power Company Irrigation Buy Back Program  
Energy Reductions and Acres by County**

County	# of Acres Taken Out of Production	Total Acres Irrigated in County	Percent of Acres	Total kWh* in County	kWh* in Program	Percent of County kWh* in Program
Ada	6,933	78,112	8.9%	49,795,282	13,522,668	27.2%
Adams	0	27,701	0.0%	407,128	100,000	24.6%
Bannock	289	41,910	0.7%	12,011,478	424,323	3.5%
Bingham	19,413	321,610	6.0%	192,338,507	40,108,117	20.9%
Blaine	3,869	56,909	6.8%	22,997,887	5,741,179	25.0%
Canyon	12,314	221,051	5.6%	164,000,967	25,598,413	15.6%
Cassia	7,287	266,095	2.7%	140,729,972	43,048,384	30.6%
Elmore	38,144	91,153	41.8%	183,246,357	116,386,857	63.5%
Gooding	1,531	112,665	1.4%	81,802,665	6,257,777	7.6%
Jerome	11,992	151,726	7.9%	142,797,939	24,601,646	17.2%
Lemhi	150	82,351	0.2%	5,473,836	115,295	2.1%
Lincoln	6,285	72,518	8.7%	18,634,714	18,748,457	100.6%
Minidoka	13,640	180,791	7.5%	191,822,033	38,333,812	20.0%
Owyhee	12,527	131,976	9.5%	120,019,066	52,424,373	43.7%
Payette	759	52,566	1.4%	12,974,020	1,518,591	11.7%
Power	6,730	118,229	5.7%	106,163,607	18,895,395	17.8%
Twin Falls	12,098	276,307	4.4%	214,217,767	93,067,716	43.4%
Washington	478	44,686	1.1%	11,328,225	612,703	5.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154,439</b>	<b>2,328,356</b>		<b>1,670,761,450</b>	<b>499,505,706</b>	

SOURCE: Idaho Power Company — March 23, 2001

compensation would far outweigh the cost of the program. FYI Table 1 has the buy back information as of March 23, 2001.

The predicted water shortage has resulted in farmers planting different crops in southern Idaho this year. There will be fewer acres of potato and sugarbeets because these crops are water intensive crops. It is anticipated that more grain, hay, and other short-term growing crops will be grown. The reduction in the number of acres planted in sugarbeets, potatoes, and dry beans is likely to reduce the demand for seasonal workers because the labor intensive jobs such as hoeing, weeding, and thinning will be needed on fewer acres. Crops, such as feed corn, feed grains, and hay, require less labor intensive activities. The changes in the mix of crops will also result in the earlier layoff of seasonal workers. Some might be able to obtain some fill-in work as drivers and harvest workers in the sugarbeet and potato harvest, but many farmers will employ their own workers before hiring seasonal workers. As the agriculture season progresses, it is possible that the supply of agriculture workers will exceed the demand.

North Idaho agriculture activity is not being as adversely affected by the water shortage. The main crops are grain and hay that are not irrigated but get their moisture from rain. There has been sufficient rain this spring that the crops are looking good. Other crops in the area, such as hops, peas, and grass seed, require irrigation only if there is not enough natural moisture. However, available water does not appear to be a problem in the area. Coeur d'Alene, Priest, and Pend Oreille Lakes are nearly full. Pend Oreille Lake may be one of the few water storage facilities in the northwest that will have water available for release by late summer.